

REMARKS

Applicants cancel claims 1-5, 10-11, 13-14, and 16-19. Claims 6-9, 15, and 20 are pending and under consideration.

Election/Restrictions:

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for pointing out that the application contains claims 17-19 drawn to a non-elected invention. In this response, Applicants cancel claims 17-19 without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a later-filed application.

Amendments to the Claims:

Certain editorial changes were made to claims 6-9, 15, and 20 to enhance readability of the application and correct typographical errors. These amendments do not add new matter and do not narrow the scope of the claims in any way.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b):

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 10, 11, 13, 14, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,077,131 to Fukuda et al., ("Fukuda"). Office Action at pages 2-3. In response, Applicants cancel claims 1-5, 10-11, 13-14, and 16-19 without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a later-filed application.

The Examiner indicated that claims 6-9, 15, and 20 are allowable. Office Action at page 4. By this response, Applicants cancel claims 1-5, 10-11, 13-14, and 16-19 without prejudice to pursuing these claims in a later-filed application. Applicants respectfully submit that the remaining claims are in condition for allowance over the cited references as already noted by the Examiner.

Provisional Obviousness-Type Double Patenting Rejection:

The Examiner provisionally rejected claim 1 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of

copending Application No. 10/196,164. Since claim 1 has been canceled, this provisional rejection is moot.

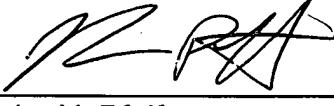
Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 19, 2003

By: 

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Date: December 19, 2003

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